

In Memoriam... Frank Chipman

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Kaye Foster and Margaret Kearney for the Duxbury Beach Preservation Society, Town of Duxbury Beach Committee and the Duxbury Beach Reservation.

Duxbury Beach lost a good friend and strong advocate when Frank Chipman died suddenly on August 2. Although Frank knew anyone and everyone associated with the Beach, he came to be very close to those active in restoring and preserving Duxbury Beach following the severe damage caused by the 1991 No-Name storm. Frank began appearing during the cold winter weekends when volunteers assisted the Duxbury Beach Reservation in replacing snow fencing and removing debris. He was there when hundreds of thousands of culms of grass were planted in the spring, and every spring after that for many years. He came with the Mass. Beach Buggy Association and always brought the coffee and doughnuts.

Once the beach had been restored and the sacrificial dune placed, not once but twice, Frank continued to show his interest in beach affairs. He began coming to Duxbury Beach Committee meetings, even though as a Kingston resident he was not eligible to become a member. In fact, he had the best attendance record of anyone. Because of Frank's involvement in the MBBA, he was able to bring to the Beach Committee a wealth of knowledge of how other beaches are managed.

Frank was very interested in the formation of the Duxbury Beach Preservation Society, a committee of the Duxbury Beach Reservation which grew out of the Save Duxbury Beach Committee. The people who worked so hard on restoring

the beach wanted to continue their efforts, and so now the group works to raise funds for future storm damage and ongoing preservation efforts. Frank came to the Preservation meetings faithfully and participated in all the events. It was because of his strong support of the Preservation Society that the Duxbury Beach Reservation elected him a trustee in April 1998.

Frank never stopped working on beach projects. In July he began coming to the meetings of the ad hoc committee established by Duxbury Town Manager Rocco Longo to deal with the many complaints of beach overcrowding and the policies regarding the sale of parking permits. These meetings began at 7:30 am and Frank was there. It was he who provided committee members with all of the maps, facts, and contacts for other Massachusetts beaches.

Whenever and wherever Duxbury Beach was being discussed, Frank was likely to be in attendance. His quiet but engaging manner, his invaluable knowledge of other beaches, his willingness to pitch in and help, whether it be pouring coffee or planning the Preservation dance event, and most of all, his love and dedication to Duxbury Beach should be an example to all of us. Duxbury Beach may have lost a true friend, but he will not be forgotten. We who knew and loved Frank extend our thanks to his wife Chris for sharing Frank with us. As a small token of our appreciation, the Preservation Society is naming the Beach Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 18, "Frank Chipman Day." At that time we will present a plaque to Chris.